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S-E-C-R-E-T

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

11 October 1962

STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 39-62] (Internal ONE Working Paper -
CIA Distribution Only)

(MRBM/IRBM)

SUBJECT: Use of Cuba As a Soviet ~~Strategic Missile~~ Base

Installation of Soviet MRBMs & IRBMs in Cuba.

NOTE TO THE BOARD

Prepared at the request of AD/NE.

S-E-C-R-E-T

STAT

(hand writing)

1. It remains our judgement that the USSR does not intend to install long range surface to surface strategic missiles* in Cuba, at least for the present. The provision of IL-28s ** confirms that the Soviets wish, at a minimum, to strengthen further Cuba's defenses and, [at a probably also maximum] to test anew US reactions to further buildups by supplying a weapon which has a capability

* * The IL-28 or BEAGLE, first produced in 1950, is a jet light bomber with a combat radius of 700 n.m. and a cruising speed of 435 mph.

*

700 n.m. range and greater

against & portions of US territory.

In considering the military and political advantages and disadvantages of deploying MRBMs or IRBMs in Cuba, the USSR would be concerned first of all with the risk of US ^{further} reaction [in force] against Castro. While we believe that they presently estimate this risk as very high, their future estimates will be heavily influenced by US reactions to the current buildup and ^{to future} ~~any~~ changes in ^{the} scale & nature of their future expansion which they may undertake.

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